

State the Purpose and Use of an Almanac

Grade 4 – Lesson Plan

Content Objectives:

- A. What is an almanac and how is it used?
- B. How are keywords, main topics and subtopics used in an index to find information?

Process Objectives:

- 1. Task definition
 - 1.1 What is the task?
 - 1.2 What types of information do I need?
- 2. Information seeking strategies
 - 2.1 What are the possible sources?
 - 2.2 Which are best?
- 3. Location & access
 - 3.1 Where is each source?

Idaho Achievement Standards:

- 707.05.a** Identify and use traditional sources such as reference books, library materials...to locate and acquire information.
- 707.05.c** Identify format of various technical and reference texts.

Materials: *World Almanac for Kids* for partners stacked on the tables; overhead film of U-V page from the index; graphic organizer of reference books from previous almanac lesson; information problems for guided practice are on the marker board or an overhead film

Information Problems

- 1. What does the Ukraine flag look like?
- 2. What video games do most kids like?
- 3. Where are Utah's parks? (Teach: cross-referencing using *See*.)
- 4. Find a list of the United States' presidents. (Teach: dash means use all 8 pages.)
- 5. Who is the vice president of the United States?
- 6. I want a map of Vermont.
- 7. I want a map of the United States. (Teach: 2 sets of pages with maps; use both.)
- 8. Where was the last earthquake in the United States?

Previous lesson:

- Reviewed why people use a library.
- Used a graphic organizer to connect an almanac, atlas, encyclopedia, and dictionary as part of reference books.
- Provided time for students to explore the World Almanac for Kids.
- Students shared information found in an almanac.
- Instructor defined an almanac as a book of facts. Noted that a new one is published yearly.

Lesson Introduction:

- Share content objectives.

Development:

- Review:
 - Ask what students remember about an almanac.
 - Use the graphic organizer to make connections with reference books.
- Almanac index introduction:
 - Relate the almanac's index to their textbooks and a nonfiction information book.
 - Ask/explain why using an index is smart. (Find information fast in a book.)
- Keyword, main topic, subtopics introduction:
 - Direct instruction using the overhead film from the almanac's index:
 - +Alphabetical order
 - +Main topics like Valentine's Day or United States start in the left margin
 - +Subtopics are indented, such as those listed under United States
 - +Page numbers are beside the main topic (e.g., United States) and the subtopics (e.g., those listed under United States).
- Guided Practice:
 - Focus attention on the information problems on the marker board or overhead film.
 - +Goal: Use main topics and subtopics in the index to tell me the page number for solving the problem.
 - +Class decides on the keyword or keyword phrase together.
 - +Partners work together and share page numbers with class.
 - +Instructor confirms the answer by walking through the process using the overhead film of the index.

Assessment:

- Application on a classroom learning project from the content area.

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